

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7910

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJ: DEMOCRATIC LEFT LAUNCHES NEW POLITICAL COURSE

1. SUMMARY. IN MAJOR "NEW DIRECTIONS" SPEECH MARCH 13, ILIAS ILIOU SUMMONED HIS OLD UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT PARTY (EDA) TO BE RECONSTITUTED AS AN INDEPENDENT "PROGRESSIVE, MARXIST, LENINIST, RENOVATING PARTY." HE SAID MANY GREEK COMMUNISTS LOYAL TO GREECE WILL BE WELCOME IN THE NEW PARTY STRUCTURE, BUT HE REJECTED ANY COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS WHO TAKE THEIR MARCHING ORDERS FROM MOSCOW. ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT THE NEW PARTY WAS NOT ANTI-SOVIET, HE RECALLED FOR THE RECORD THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR "BROKE EASTER EGGS" WITH THE DICTATORS WHILE RESISTANCE FIGURES WERE BEING TORTURED IN GREECE DURING THE JUNTA PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

2. THE "GRAND OLD MAN" OF THE GREEK LEFT, ILIAS ILIOU, CONVENED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE EDA -- ONLY THE THIRD TIME THE COMMITTEE HAS GATHERED SINCE THE FALL OF THE JUNTA -- IN ORDER TO INAUGURATE A WEEK-LONG SESSION  
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WHICH WILL DISSOLVE THE COMMITTEE AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR

SUMMONING A GRASSROOTS CONVENTION FOR ORGANIZING A NEW EDA. (COMMENT: A FORMAL DISSOLUTION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE PRESENT COMMITTEE HAS A NUMBER OF REVISIONIST COMMUNISTS AS MEMBERS WHO WERE PLACED ON IT SOME MONTHS BACK WHEN A UNITED LEFT POLITICAL MOVEMENT APPEARED POSSIBLE IN GREECE. THAT POSSIBILITY HAS NOW VANISHED, FIRST WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNISTS IN DECEMBER, AND, MORE RECENTLY, WITH THE EDA DECISION TO DROP FORMAL COOPERATION WITH THE INTERIOR FACTION COMMUNISTS AS WELL.)

3. ILIOU LAUNCHED THE MEETING BY READING A TWENTY-TWO PAGE SPEECH, MORE THAN HALF OF WHICH WAS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE RATIONALE FOR SEPARATING EDA FROM MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNISTS. ON THIS THEME, ILIOU BROUGHT OUT FROM THE CLOSET A LOT OF MARXIST SKELETONS, SPEAKING BITTERLY AND SADLY OF MANY FAILED ATTEMPTS AT INTRA-MARXIST COOPERATION IN GREECE OVER THE PAST DECADE. HE DESCRIBED HIS PERSONAL SADNESS (AND PIQUE) WHEN HIS FIRST POST-JUNTA AFFIRMATION ON BEHALF OF THE GREEK LEFT WAS MAULED OVER BY REVISIONIST COMMUNISTS.

4. ILIOU CONDEMNED THE MENTALITY OF MOSCOW-ALIGNED GREEK COMMUNISTS "BECAUSE THEY REVISE THE MOST BASIC TEACHINGS...(WHILE) THEY HAVE DOGMATICALLY FIXED THEMSELVES IN ANALYSIS WHICH CORRESPONDS, IF NOT TO THE AGE OF THE WHEEL, AT BEST TO THE AGE OF STEAM." BY CONTRAST, HE PRAISED PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WHO HAD PROMISED HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER FORMING HIS GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN JULY 1974 THAT MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN FOR DEMOCRATIZATION AND THE FUTURE LEGALIZATION OF THE KKE. AND, HE SAID, ALL THESE PROMISES WERE KEPT.

5. THE SPEECH REPEATEDLY CRITICIZED THE TIES THAT BIND SOME GREEK COMMUNISTS TO MOSCOW. HE NOTED THAT THE EDA WAS NOT ANTI-SOVIET, BUT AT THE SAME TIME COULD NOT FORGET (AND INFERENTIALLY FORGIVE) THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR VISITED WITH THE JUNTA LEADERS SHORTLY AFTER THE 1967 COUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF BREAKING EASTER EGGS AT THE VERY TIME THAT THE TRUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEFTISTS AND PATRIOTS WERE BEING TORTURED BY THE JUNTA.

6. ILIOU'S SPEECH RECEIVED PROMINENT PRESS ATTENTION WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF MOSCOW ALIGNED RIZOSPASTIS, WHICH IGNORED ITEM COMPLETELY. SAMPLE HEADLINES READ: "ILIOU CRITICIZES SOVIET ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS LEFT" (TO VIMA); "SHARP CRITICISM BY ILIOU AGAINST KKE EXTERIOS" (COSMOS); "EDA SEPARATES FROM KKE

INTERIOR" (ACROPOLIS); "EDA BECOMES INDEPENDENT PARTY;  
RADICAL DIFFERENCES WITH TWO KKE" (KATHIMERINI); AND  
IN ILIOU'S OWN DAILY, AVGHI, "PROPOSAL OF PRESIDENT  
ILIOU FOR AUTONOMOUS AND INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE PARTY."  
KUBISCH

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